INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Vologda Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 24 November 1952

SUBJECT Construction of an Aluminum Combine in Cherepovets

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. 2 (3 pages) (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. [redacted] 25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[redacted]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

[redacted]

25X1

1. The building site of the aluminum combine in Cherepovets (59°08'N/37°55'E) was on the western edge of the city. This site was bounded on the north by the railroad line linking Leningrad (59°55'N/30°15'E) and Vologda (59°13'N/39°40'E); on the west by a small stream or canal; on the south by the Sheksna River; and on the east by the city of Cherepovets. The PW camp and the bauxite deposits were in Bogorodskiy. The village of Bogorodskiy was located on a hill where bauxite was found and was being destroyed as the mining of this bauxite progressed. It was to be replaced by a new village called Zhdanov. Another settlement was said to have been erected at Pankino on the northeast. Allegedly, there was another bauxite deposit near the village and mountain of Koshta (sic). The aluminum plant was constructed near the north bank of the Sheksna River south of Bogorodskiy. A spur track built in 1940 and 1949 linked the building site with the main railroad line. There was a narrow-gauge field railway within the area itself. *

2. [redacted] bauxite deposits in Cherepovets were discovered prior to the war. Preliminary operations for mining the deposits began in 1938 but were discontinued in 1940. After the war the work was resumed. Test drilling operations were under way in 1948 and preparations for mining were started. The construction of an aluminum plant began in early 1949 but no bauxite mining or preparatory work started prior to October 1949. The date of completion of the combine was allegedly set for 1952 and full productive capacity was to be reached by 1955. [redacted] full capacity would not be reached until between 1958 and 1960. The entire project was designated SNU (sic), which allegedly was believed to be short for Severnoye (northern) or Stroitelnoye (construction) Metallurgicheskoye Upravleniye (metallurgical directorate). **

3. The area of the bauxite mining pits and the settlements under construction allegedly was indicated on a building plan as being 2 x 1 km. The area of the aluminum plant was believed to be about 500 x 300 meters. The buildings of

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION							
ARMY #	X	AIR #	X	FBI									

25X1

[redacted]

the administration and planning division were located on the western outskirts of Cherepovets prior to October 1949. A mechanical workshop, some stables, garages, warehouses, dumps, and manufacturing shops for building materials were also located there. Clearing operations in the bauxite pits were well along and work on the foundations of the plant buildings had begun. In 1949 current was supplied by the Cherepovets power plant, which allegedly had a capacity of 20,000 kw. The hydraulic power plant in Shcherbakov (58°03'N/38°50'E) was to furnish current when the combine was completed. ***

4. After completion, the combine was to employ a total of 20,000 workers. The settlement was planned for a population of 100,000. Construction work was done in three shifts by an undetermined number of workers. The building areas were illuminated by searchlights at night.

5. Bauxite found in this area was to be used as raw material for the aluminum combine. [redacted] 25X1 the bauxite deposits were extremely rich and the material extracted was of high quality and that, therefore, it was possible to erect the largest aluminum plant ever built in the western part of the USSR. The bauxite in most places was only 3 to 6 meters below the surface and in some places was on the surface. Test-drilling operations were still under way in late November 1948. Compartmental boxes 1,200 x 400 x 400 mm, containing samples drilled at various depths, were forwarded to an institute in Leningrad.

6. The building site was guarded only by armed sentries prior to July 1949, but was surrounded by a board fence after that date.

7. The reservoir dam near Shcherbakov was heightened in 1948. As a result the Sheksna River rose 3 meters, instead of 1 ½ meters as was planned, thus making the bridge too short. Therefore, the embankments had to be expanded. Part of the "Red Star" plant, particularly the old foundry, was flooded and a new foundry had to be erected. The water depth of the Sheksna River eventually permitted traffic of cargo vessels of up to 2,000 tons. Previously, cargo arriving on large vessels had to be reloaded into 500-ton vessels. A highway bridge was built across the Yagorba River south of the railroad bridge in 1948. Upstream from the entrance to the foundry harbor this river separated into two branches, each about 20 meters wide, and was spanned by two bridge sections and three dams. The total length of this bridge system reportedly was 200 meters.

3

25X1 [redacted]

25X1

25X1 ** [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the construction of new aluminum plants on the Volga River was planned prior to World War II. The new plant in Cherepovets presumably is one of these new factories. 25X1 [redacted] was disbanded in October 1949. Soviet workers employed on finishing the construction of the various installations of the plant were later billeted there. 25X1

[redacted] Comment. For location of the various buildings in Cherepovets, see Annex 2.

Legend:

1. Railroad station.

2. a. Loading ramp.

2. Railroad bridge across the Yagorba River.

3. a. Bauxite deposits in Koshta, with mining preparations under way.

3. b. Four excavators.

3. c. Bauxite deposits, with mining preparations under way.

3. d. Narrow-gauge field railway tracks.

3. e. Bauxite deposits in Bogorodskiy. There are also deposits west of Bogorodskiy

4. a. Newly-erected buildings.

4. b. " "

5. PW Camp 7437.

6. Church.

7. Hippodrome.

8. Military engineer school.

9. Harbor area with warehouses for lumber and building materials and a sawmill.

10. Allegedly the construction site of the aluminum plant. The foundation walls were under construction. Wood sheds and stables were also under construction.

11. Red Star Plant.

12. Wooden bridge across the Sheksna River.

13. Landing for river vessels.

14. Airfield.

15. Crane factory.

16. Power plant.

17. Wooden road bridge across the Yagorba River.

18. Shipyard.

19. Lumber warehouse.

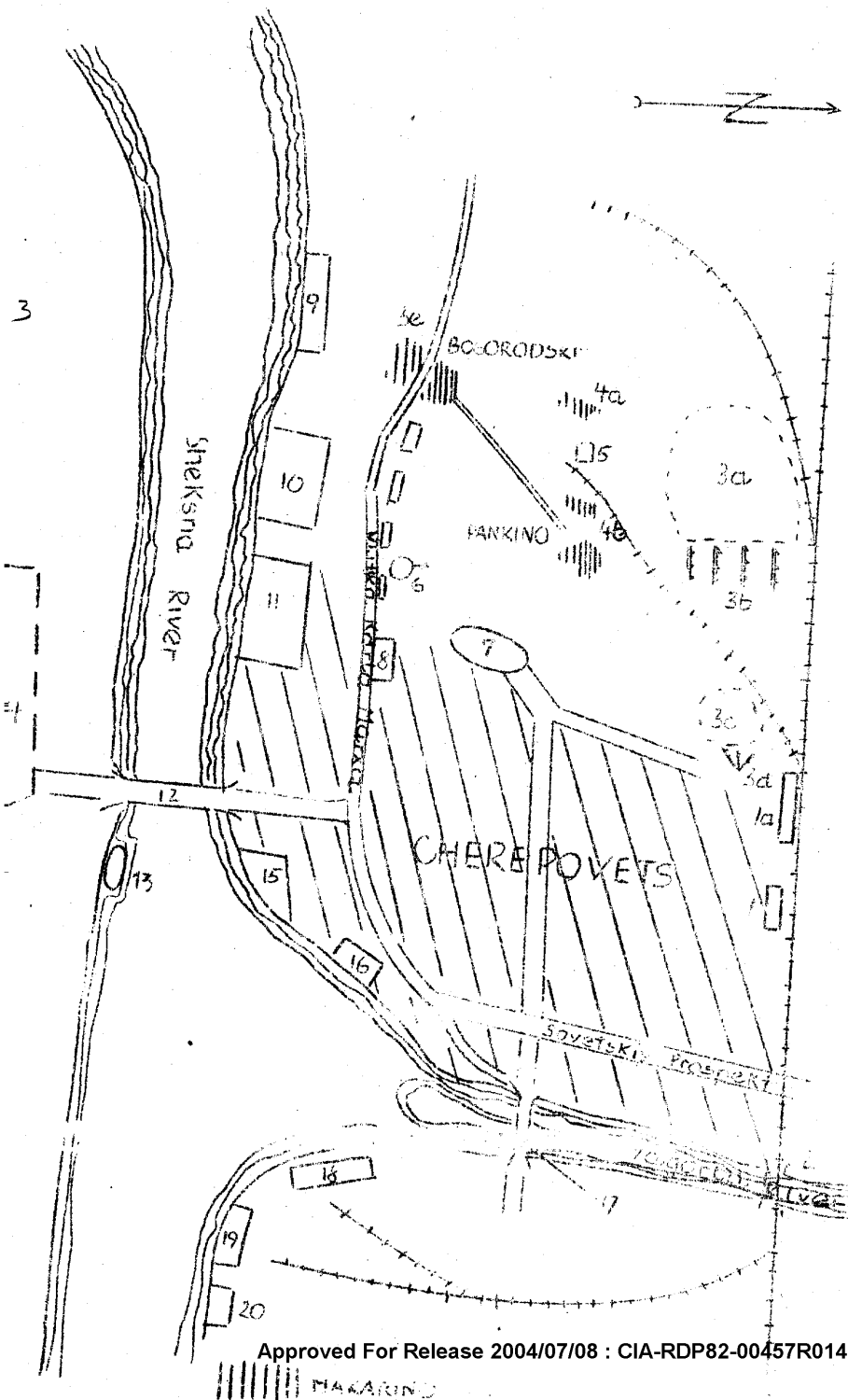
20. Grain silo and mill.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Attachment 2

Layout Sketch of Buildings in Cherepovets

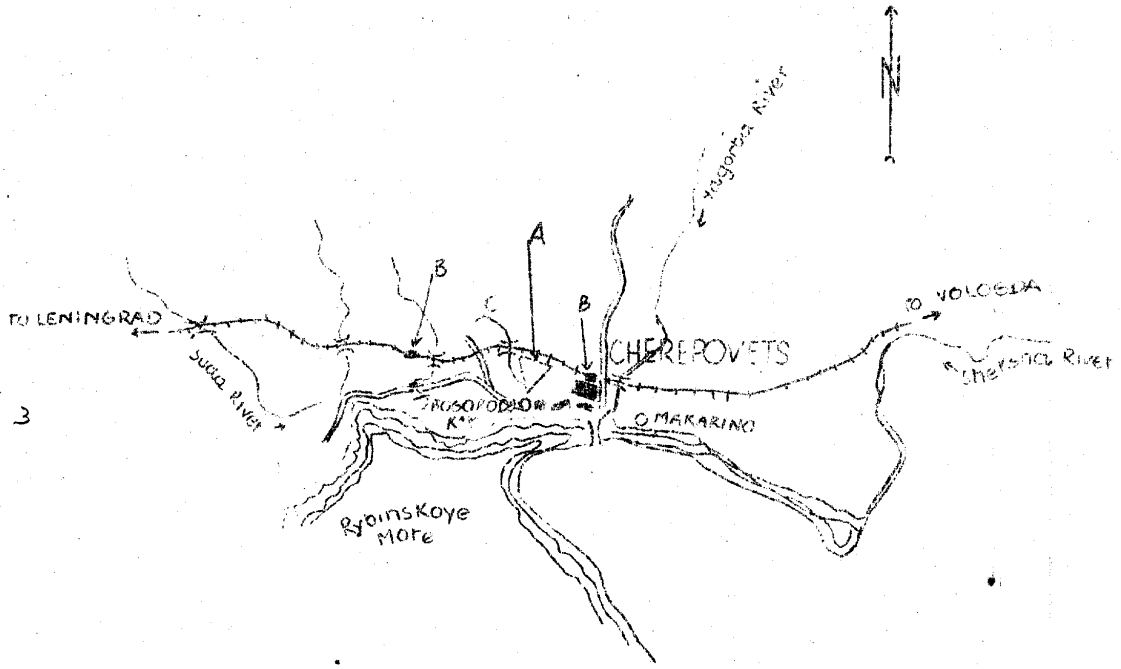


25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

Attachment 1

Layout Sketch of the Aluminum Combine in Cherepovets



Scale 1:200,000

Legend:

A. Construction site of the combine.

B. Railroad stations.

C. Small stream or canal.

CONFIDENTIAL